

Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend claim 5 as shown. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A process for forming a joint formed between two overlapping portions of polymeric material comprising welding the overlapping portions to create a joint region and applying a tensile force to the joint region, the force being of sufficient strength to elongate the joint region, thus thinning the joint region.

Claim 2 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tensile force is a stretching force applied between regions of the material on either side of the joint.

Claim 3 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the force range is 0.75 - 1.5 pounds force (lbf).

Claim 4 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the two overlapping portions of polymeric material are a catheter shaft and a balloon neck.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4 wherein the balloon neck is clamped on either side of the joint region, and the tensile force is applied between the clamped regions.

Claim 6 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tensile force is applied to a cold joint.

Claim 7 (original): A process as claimed claim 1 wherein the tensile force is applied to a heated joint.

Claim 8 (original): A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the joint is heated by the application of hot air.